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(71) Applicant *(for all designated States except US)*: **INTELLIGENT ENERGY LIMITED** [GB/GB]; Rolls House, 7 Rolls Buildings, Fetter Lane, London EC4A 1NH (GB).

(72) Inventors; and

(75) Inventors/Applicants *(for US only)*: **PEACE, Benjamin, Norman** [GB/GB]; 54 Narrow Lane, Hathern, Leicestershire LE12 5LH (GB). **NEWBOLD, Anthony** [GB/GB]; 27 Avenue Road, Sileby, Leicestershire LE12 7PG (GB). **HOOD, Peter, David** [GB/GB]; 1026 Melton Rd, Syston, Leicestershire LE7 8NN (GB).

(74) Agent: **CHARIG, Raymond, J.**; Eric Potter Clarkson, Park View House, 58 The Ropewalk, Nottingham NG1 5DD (GB).

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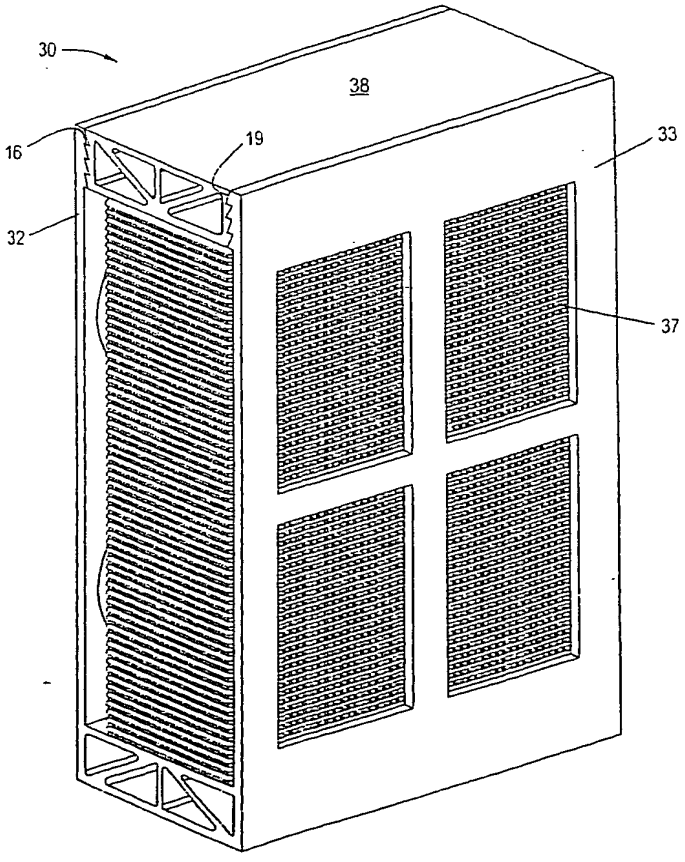
(54) Title: FUEL CELL COMPRESSION ASSEMBLY



(57) Abstract: A fuel cell compression assembly provides a method for applying and retaining compression to a fuel cell stack through the use of a fixed carriage into which the cells can be built directly. The assembly comprises: a carriage unit having at least two opposing side walls maintained in spaced relation by a base member extending therebetween at a lower position on the sides, the opposing side walls and base member thereby defining a cradle for receiving fuel cell plates, the opposing side walls each including at least one engagement member on internal face for engaging with a top closure member forming the top of the carriage unit. The closure member is adapted to close the carriage unit and apply pressure to the plates therein, by automatic locking engagement with the cradle when the closure member is brought into position with the cradle in a first direction substantially orthogonal to the plane of the plates.

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